

Duxbury Beach

Beach Sticker Policy Proposals Unveiled

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were to make improvements to policy and eliminate loopholes; improve benefits to Duxbury residents; maintain the mission of the Duxbury Beach Reservation Inc. as it applies to residents and citizens of the Commonwealth; clarify policy and support office staff to provide efficient and expedient service; and to stay revenue neutral.

Longo said that despite the belief that the beach was overcrowded, there were only two days recorded by the Harbormaster during the season when vehicles had to be limited for a short period of time.

In addition, the committee found that historically oversand usage at the beach was determined to be in most peak times a 55-45 percent split weighted with more non-resident users.

Among the highlights of the new proposals which will be fully aired and voted at a January 17th public hearing are:

Replacement stickers for residents and non residents will be \$10 with a portion of the missing sticker.

Stickers will be limited to two per household for residents and one per household for non

residents.

Sticker fees will be increased from \$80 to \$100 a season for oversand resident stickers and \$40 to \$50 for senior citizens 62 years and older and from \$160 to \$200 for non residents. Resident parking lot fees will remain at \$35 and \$15 for senior citizens. Seasonal (Sept - March) sticker rates for residents and renters would increase from \$40 to \$50 and non residents would rates would jump from \$80 to \$100.

Relating to sticker procurement, a \$10 discount would apply to those resident mail in requests for stickers. Those purchasing stickers at town hall between Jan. and March would receive a \$10 deduction. Non residents will no longer be offered a mail in option but would receive a \$10 discount for sticker purchase between January and March.

Daily access capacity for oversand would continue to be 500 a day on the outer beach but would be divided 250 resident and 250 non resident.

Residents who rent their home would be required to procure stickers or tenants can get non resident stickers or use Duxbury Beach Park. Owners can surrender sticker and ten-

ant can procure resident sticker. Once the rental period is over the tenant must surrender sticker and homeowner can procure stickers for \$10 transfer fee.

During the discussion, Beach Reservation member John Nash told selectmen that a lot of people in town no longer go to the beach and that sooner or later selectmen must face the fact that a collision is coming and people will have to be shuttled to the beach and leave their cars behind at a parking lot.

Rudy Sawyer, former president of the Mass. Beach Buggy

Assn., said he thought the new policy and 250/250 limit would open a can of worms making it harder for non residents.

Committee member Chris Thorn noted that one thing which makes Duxbury Beach unique is the availability of Blakeman's parking lot as an alternative for those turned away on the big beach.

Beach Committee member Dan Baker said he felt the recommendations were a good first attempt at establishing a workable sticker solution.

Barbara Kiley noted that "it would be a shame for it to be

on our watch when the beach was turned into a parking lot", saying that protecting the resource should outweigh other concerns including revenue.

Selectman Andre Martecchini said that on the contrary, he felt revenue was not an overriding concern and that the new policy was a means of controlling the situation in an equitable way.

Committee member Greg Auda emphasized that "quality of (beach) experience" is really the focal point of the debate.